

# **The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert**

**Authors' surnames beginning with**

**Si-SI**



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Sibson, Francis H.

The Survivors; Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1932 (1932, Publishers); Chart; 311p. London/Toronto, William Heinemann Ltd. (Cheap edition, April, 1937) 250p.

This is a sober but uplifting novel of survivors of the uplifting of a new continent by volcanic action in the Sargasso region of the Atlantic. The descriptions of the seas and the havoc rendered on board ship are excellent; and the actions of the survivors, though probably unduly idealistic, express faith in the ultimate nobility of man.

Two ships, one American and the other a British cruiser, are caught in the upheaval, and men from the cruiser rescue the only two survivors of the American ship after undergoing extreme hardships over the volcanic surface of the new continent.

For no reason I could discover, the new land was named New Canada.

A good science fiction novel.



Sidis, Boris (M.A., Ph.D., M.D.)

Symposium.

Psychopathological Researches: Studies in Mental Dissociation; with text figures and ten plates; Boston, Richard G. Badger 1908 (1902-1908, author; Index; Plates plus 329p.

This is a highly technical treatise on split personality, and details case histories. Although attributed mainly to Sidis, the authors include William A. White, and George M. Parker who collaborated.

I would require much more instruction before fully understanding this volume, but the case histories are clear and one on a triple personality is particularly instructive.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
May 20, 2000

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MANITOBA

Sidis, Boris (M.A., Ph.D.)

The Psychology of Suggestion: A Research into the Subconscious Nature of Man and Society; Introduction by Prof. William James; New York and London, D. Appleton and Company, 1911 (1898, publishers); Appendix;; Index 386p.

Divided into three sections, Suggestibility; the Self; and Society, this textbook is a technical treatise for experts and a difficult study for popular use. James does not agree with all said by Sidis; in fact, Sidis criticises some of James's ideas. However, the book seems to have received several printings, and deserves attention.

The dangers of mobs are detailed in the Society section of the book, which is largely based on the 2-volume works of Mackay and Madden, which I read years ago; so this section gave me little new information. It warns against joining mobs which are often led to irrational actions by charismatic leaders.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
May 20, 2000



Siegel, Richard, and Butterfield, John H.

The Extraterrestrial Report; Illustrated; A&W Visual  
Library, New York, 1978 128p.

This is a mock-serious report on flying saucers and contact with alien intelligences, culminating in an alleged report on Sol III by an alien Blight intelligence, translated.

It is, I think, more likely to interest a flying-saucer enthusiast than a science fiction fan, but could be placed in both categories of interest.

The illustrations, by a variety of artists, are worth looking at, independently of the text.



Sills, Jennifer (Pseudonym)

Massage Parlor; New York, Ace Books (#52110), (1973,  
Publishers) 254p.

Proprietor of a high class massage parlor in New York City, the author tries to outdo Xaviera Hollander in telling of incidents in the prostitution business for which the word massage is simply a front.

She admits that the girls are not trained in massage work and that prostitution is the main money-maker; she says she enjoys the work, and like most prostitutes says that she would not enjoy the business and the income she has if wives were educated to give their husbands the exciting sex lives they want.

Not badly written, and apparently an authentic picture of the massage parlor business as an illegitimate front for prostitution.

THE CHOIR:

The Choir did something different in 1983 - they went into the Musical Festival for the first time. A lot of work, but wonderful experience, and I am sure we will be back again. We started working on the pieces in January and before March rolled around we had them memorized so that we could concentrate on diction, shaping and last but not least our Conductor's directions and many other things to give a good performance. We sang at Knox Church on the evening of March 13th and although we didn't win the adjudicator thought our singing was beautiful. Stuart was well pleased I'm sure. I would like to point out that we were the only Choir that evening that didn't use their music, and to me that is as it should be, especially in a competition.

As we usually do, we had a few 'Pot Luck' suppers during the year which are always a great success, and a lot of fun. We had one at Ken and Jane Nattrass's home, and one at Stuart McVey's apartment. We also went to Dora Bonner's cottage at Nutimik Lake in September one Sunday after church for dinner - don't know how she does it all, it was really something! In early June the church had a supper which was one of the nicest we have had in a long time, such a friendly, happy atmosphere. After the supper the 'Bunch Of Grapes' entertained as a way of showing their appreciation for being able to use our premises for rehearsals, and the money made by the event was given to the church to use towards our 100th Anniversary Celebrations to be held in November.

The week-end of November 11-13 the church celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The Choir worked hard on special music for the event.

We also had extra musicians join us. We thank them for coming to be with us. It all added up to the wonderful sounds that came out of the Choir loft. The event is something we will always remember, one of those times that one will recall with a certain sense of nostalgia and a great warmth of feeling. It was nice to have some former Choir Members with us for this special occasion, Mona Fillingham, Sharon Magnusson, June Anderson and Barbara Morissette, we thank you! We have had many compliments from old friends and former Members who were thrilled with the music. That is good to hear from 'outside', it boosts the morale.

Christmas Eve the Choir was in charge of the service and were joined by Erica Schultz and Stuart McVey for two or three anthems. The Choir Members did the readings in between the musical numbers and I am sure that it was worth it to those who came out on that frigid and stormy night. I believe that 1984 will be an even better year for the Choir, and I for one am looking forward to what lies ahead for us in the music department at Crescent Fort Rouge.

*Jane E. Montgomery*

Silvani, Anita

The Strange Story of Ahriziman; Illustrated; Chicago, The Progressive Thinker Publishing Co., 1908 (1906, author) 284p.

Part 1 supplies the autobiography told in the first person but with occasional scenes omnisciently of a Persian King of 2300 years ago, based on the history of the Jewish Josephus. A melodramatic plot is enhanced by occult training by an adept who has extended his life span by vampiric drawing from young men of their vital force.

From pages 157 to 272 those events are viewed from the astral or spiritualistic spheres after death, inculcating occult teachings of the consequences of earthly events on the eternal soul. Notes completing the volume warn against amateur magnetists or others practising mediumship or control of others.

Both the story and the occult teachings are evidence that the author possessed a mature and educated understanding of occult philosophy and human nature. This is probably among the top ten occult novels I have read, and is worth both reading and study.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 18, 1999

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Silve, Claude (Pseud.)

Eastward in Eden: A Story by Claude Silve; Translated by Evelyn Hatch; New York, Creative Age Press (1945, Publishers) 271p

This is actually a children's book told in adult language.

Peter is kidnaped by a gypsy and taken to an Arab country called Sablomine where he is treated like a prince and becomes friendly with a kindly woman who looks after him, and with the gypsy who kidnaped him who is often absent in pursuit of women. Birds and animals, particularly a donkey, a parrot and a gazelle leading him to pine away to death after he is ransomed and returned to his home.

I must admit that I nearly gave up reading this simple book many times before I finished it. The detailed narration I found unreasonable in view of the simplicity of the story.

Although there were hints of fantasy, I do not consider that this book qualifies as fantastic fiction.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 21, 1999

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Silverberg, Robert ,

To Live Again; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. (1969, Silverberg), Book Club Edition 231p.  
New York, Dell Publishing Co., Inc. (#8973), 1971 207p.

This book reminded me very much of Friends Come in Boxes by Michael Coney, which may have been based on it. In this novel, a soul repository is maintained which enables living people to assimilate the personalities of the dead, who become secondary selves with all their memories, of the hosts; whenever the secondary personality gains the ascendancy, the body is said to be dybbuk, or possessed, and this is unlawful.

Essentially, the struggle envisioned is the possession of the personality of the world's wealthiest man, Paul Kaufmann by a smaller Italian capitalist, by his own nephew unlawfully, by the director of the repository who places it in a newly vacated body, and, ultimately, by the nephew's daughter, who is determined to be accepted as an important, autonomous, member of the Kaufmann family.

Like so many modern novels, there is no attempt to portray any admirable character; each of the characters is self-seeking; wealth, power, fame, and personal enjoyment are the goals, and shelter from the attacks against one's own position.

This is a quite competent modern science fiction novel, which points out the dangers which wealth and immortality may present if the techniques described should be made available.



Silverberg, Robert

The World Inside; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company,  
Inc., (1971, author); (1970, 1971, vrs.) 184p.

Matthew Burgess asked me for this book, so I read it.

It tells of a Utopia in the year 2381 when increasing population housed in gigantic vertical apartment houses is fed by workers on farms outside using land areas made available by the immense heights of the apartment-cities. Fertility and reproduction are encouraged by sexual freedom exercised by everyone in these, while birth control and sexual abstinence are practised outside.

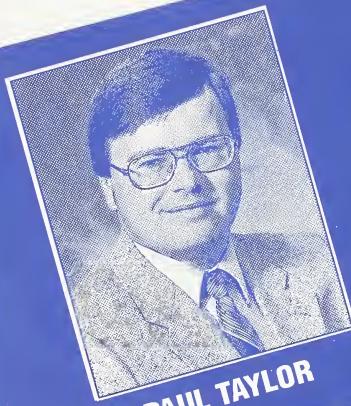
The episodic nature of the novel indicates that it may have been a "fix-up" of shorter stories published in magazines, but I have not tried to trace the original material.

In some respects, this novel appears to resemble soft porn which the author wrote under pseudonyms. The sexual freedom used by the characters would be in violation of current laws.

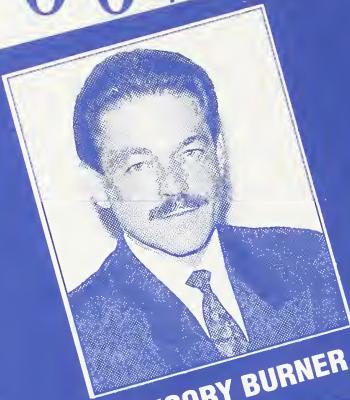
Despite acceptance generally of their milieu, emotional disturbances and a desire to experience change beset characters, and this leads to the conflicts and incidents which constitute the story.

This is sociological science fiction, with few gadgets and little hard science used.

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Simak, Clifford D.

Cosmic Engineers: An Interplanetary Novel; New York,  
Gnome Press, Publishers (1950, author) 224p.

Based on a short novel published in Astounding in 1939, this is more than the subtitle note indicates, since it describes a race existing since another sun collided with ours billions of years ago creating our solar system and starting earthlife. Searching through the galaxies, this ancient race finds only the human race capable of assisting it to defeat the Hellhounds, a menacing species bent on conquering the universe.

Receiving signals from the Cosmic Engineers, as the ancient race is called, two space newsmen, one a photographer, are sent to Pluto. En route they see a derelict space ship; on board they find a woman who has been in suspended animation for 1000 years. During this time her mind has been active, and she has developed knowledge superior to that of ordinary humans. They rescue her and she cooperates with them and the Cosmic Engineers to defeat the Hellhounds.

Unfortunately, the characters and their actions are not depicted as capable of their duties; the dialogue and conception of resistance are juvenile and unconvincing. Much of the science is pseudo-science; the plot is haphazard and undeveloped. An incident involving the last man on earth, whom the girl and the newsmen interview in their search for advice, the possibility of alternative futures, travel in space and time, and too many other concepts poorly presented, detract from what could have been a good book.

Possibly if I had read this book when it was published it might have interested me more.

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Simonds, William A.

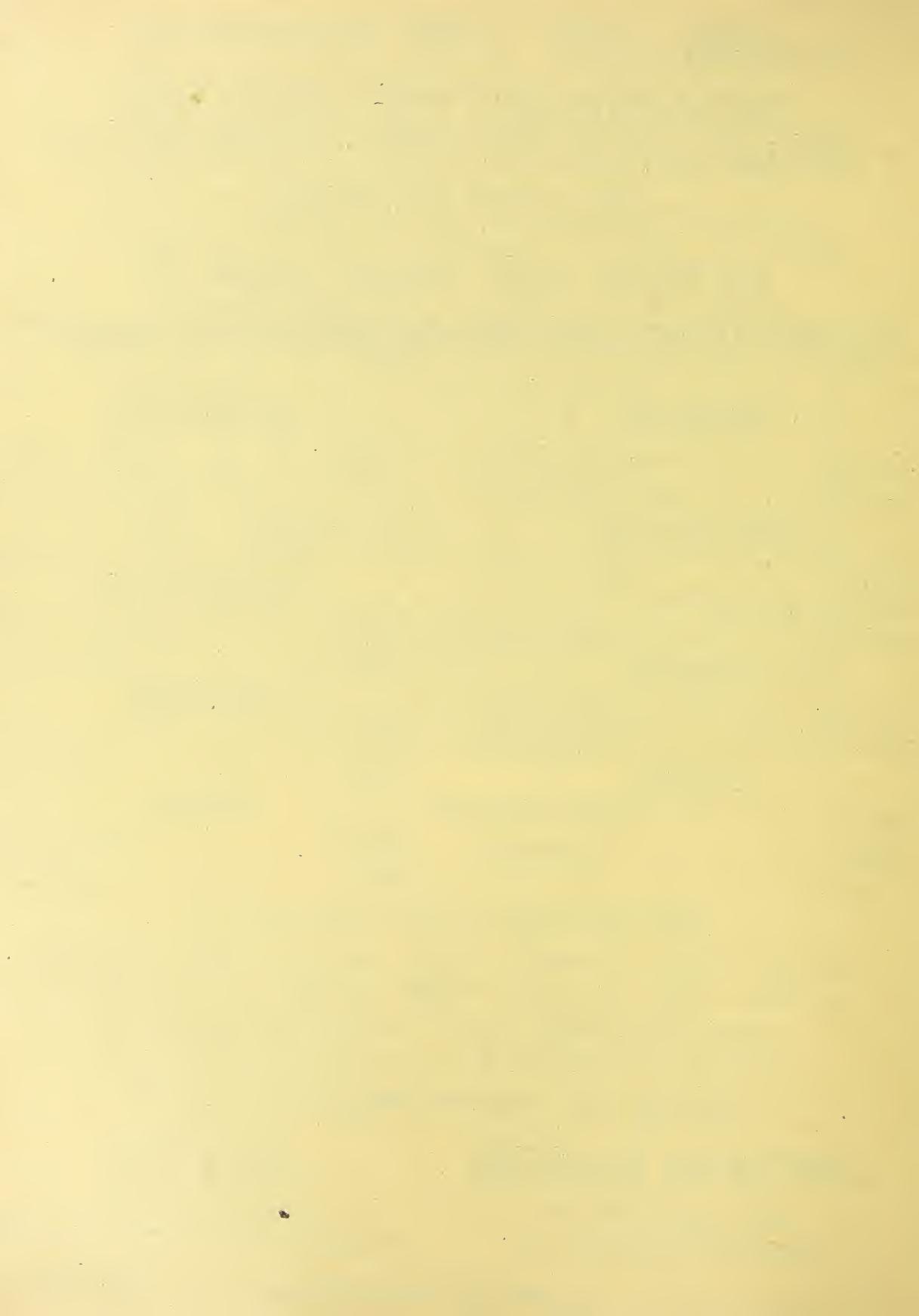
Henry Ford Motor Genius; Including a Pictorial Supplement Showing a Trip Through the Dearborn Plant; Fully Illustrated; Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1929 (1929, Publishers); Pictorial supplement plus 205p.

Although written as if for boys, this is a good outline of Henry Ford's life and work, and the photographs are very instructive. There are also designs of machinery to illustrate the text.

Ford started work at \$2.50 a week after leaving his father's farm, and by hard work and intelligent application to each job, advanced rapidly to supervisory status and then to the establishment of his own company. The main events of his life up to the publication date of this book are summarized, and show him to have been an eccentric genius, with definite opinions against drinking and smoking which he enforced in his plants, and wishing to enable working men to own and use cars. He appears to have followed this aim consistently, reducing prices as efficiency of production improved and increasing wages to enable workmen to buy more than the subsistence for life. His becoming a billionaire was incidental, and the result of hard work and efficiency.

He was autocratic, but willing to foot the bill for his experiments, and to charge off his mistakes to experience. He never valued money for its own sake, but only for what it enabled him to do; he lived simply and healthfully; he established a school to train boys for his workshops and did not insist on their working for him if they preferred to work elsewhere; he paid generously for shares when their owners objected to his plans, then carried them out at his own expense.

I am very favorably impressed by Ford.



Simons, G. L.

A History of Sex; London, New English Library Limited;  
(June, 1970) (NEL #2683) 188p.

This is a well-written survey of the subject, the author advocating sex education and expression rather than the older taboos.

There is no index to the book, but the chapters are quite well organized to survey the subject in its various aspects. As an introductory essay, it is adequate.



Simons, G. L.

Sex in the Modern World; London, New English Library  
Limited (NEL 2899), (1970, Simons) 220p.

This is a reasonably comprehensive survey of the subject which draws to some extent on the author's earlier book A History of Sex. Unfortunately, there is no index, and one has to refer to the various chapters in order to find the relevant material.

Simons is an advocate of sexual freedom, but with good taste and reasonable judgment to avoid excesses. His book is sensible and appears to cover the subject.



Sims, Geo. R.

The Devil in London; New York, Dodge Publishing Company  
(1909, publishers); Illustrated 166p.

This is a sociological novel, presenting the darker side of the city with its problems of poverty, slums, white slavery, gambling, thievery, child abuse, as a young millionaire is guided by the devil, whom he summons by means of a ring given him by an old Frenchwoman, formerly a stage star, who later relieves him of it when he marries a Sister of Mercy and devotes himself to good works in seeking to ameliorate conditions. Incidentally, the author praises institutions which serve to avoid such bad conditions, and to which the millionaire contributes funds and support.

Just as Bellamy's Looking Backward presents socialism in fiction form, so this novel describes social conditions.

It is of little importance as fantasy fiction, but is a good introduction to sociology, and a warning to innocents to beware.

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C E L E B R A T I N G  
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY  
1962-1987  
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE  
C A S E E È T E !

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**FIRST CITY TRUST**

Sinclair, Andrew

Gog; New York, The Macmillan Company (1967)

486p.

The printing, binding, paper, and even the dust jacket of this long novel would lead the reader to expect a major performance.

Perhaps this is; but I fail to see it.

Gog is the nickname of George Griffin, who sees his bastard half-brother civil servant as Magog, symbol of governmental authority and rebels to become an amnesiac tramp journeying the 400 miles from Edinburgh to London after he is washed up from the sea.

He experiences as hallucinations remnants of his past and characters from that past; feels that his wife Maire is trying to control or kill him; believes that she is lesbian rather than truly in love with him, though each finds sexual attraction in the other and is thus bound.

The characters dramatize scholarly studies which Griffin had made as a teacher, and he envisions friends and relatives as enemies or symbols of his beliefs.

In summary, though the writing is clear, the scenes are chaotic and meaningless even when placed in juxtaposition by the announcement that Gog identifies with the people of England in their struggle against bureaucracy.



Sinclair, Andrew

Jack: A Biography of Jack London; Illustrated; New York,  
Hagerstown, San Francisco, London, Harper & Row, Publishers,  
(1977, Author); Bibliography, Index 297 p.

Obviously well-researched, this biography casts doubt on  
the evidence that Jack committed suicide, but that he was dy-  
ing of bodily illnesses appears clear.

Shorter than other biographies I have read, this is still  
an excellent summary of Jack's life, but lacks the personal in-  
volvement which might have infused it if the author had known  
Jack.

The index makes it unnecessary to write detailed notes,  
but the book should be kept for reference. It mentions many  
sources of information not recalled by me as available from  
the other biographies.



Sinclair, May

The Flaw in the Crystal; New York, E. P. Dutton & Company, (1912, Author) 198p.

A woman gifted with the ability to heal at a distance learns that she can help the man she loves only by selfless healing of the man's wife, a nervous scold. Another friend whose husband lives in insane fear of attack by invisible enemies seeks her help and she agrees, but emphasises that the power is not hers and must not be attributed to her, she being merely a channel through which it can act. The friend tells her husband that he is being helped by the neighbor woman, though he is sceptical of supernormal phenomena; once he knows the source of his cure he tries to establish a close relationship and this causes the woman to absorb his insanity and she is forced to discontinue the treatment. The man she loves tells her that his wife loves another man and has won him by her return to health, but in turning to the healing woman is told that only selflessness such as that which cured his wife enables her to use the gift of healing without flaw, so that she must renounce him.

This is perhaps the classic novelette describing the gift of healing, its power and its dangers. An important contribution to the literature, it does not mention Christ, yet it appears to support His actions in this respect.

I'm extremely pleased that I have a fine copy of this book.

Note: This story was reprinted in Uncanny Stories, so I am sending this book to McClintock.



Sinclair, May

The Intercessor and Other Stories; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1932; (February, 1932, author) 222p.  
London, Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Limited; (n.d.) 222p.

Since my London edition is ex-library and the New York is ex-private library but more worn, I am sending the New York copy to McClintock.

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FIRSTCity TRUST

Sinclair, Upton

The Cup of Fury; Great Neck, New York, Channel Press  
Inc. (1956, Author); Index 190p.  
Westwood, New Jersey, Fleming H. Revell Company, (Spire  
Books, 1956, October, 1965); Index 157p.

In this book, Sinclair details his personal literary friends who became victims of alcoholism, and warns people against beginning to drink. He outlines his family background, mentions The Wet Parade as based on a boardinghouse in which he lived, and provides much information about the apparent and actual effects of alcohol on its users.

This is a useful reference book.



The Enemy Had It Too: A Play in Three Acts; New York,  
The Viking Press, 1950 127p.

A Rockefeller Institute botanist and his son and daughter in Colombia decide to leave because of the enmity of a witch-doctor; they must leave the son's wife and child, but knowing that they will be cared for due to the customs of the tribe. In the outer world, the Bio, a virus used by the western world and also by the Russians, has destroyed the bulk of the population.

Arriving in New York City, they are approached by fearful and inimical people, men who covet the daughter and who menace the men to obtain possession of her. Kidnaped by one, the daughter uses curare on a finger nail to scratch him to death, and returns to her brother who has been wounded by the gangster, and to her father. A Norseman and his grandson and granddaughter meet them; the two become friends; they are planning to intermarry when a spaceship returning from Mars brings two Martian women from a civilization which digs into the earth (very reminiscent of Sinclair's Prince Hagen). The survivors decide to let the Martian women, who have been impregnated by the astronauts, repopulate the earth, while the earth people go to Mars, hoping to build a new world there.

Sinclair wrote this play in hopes that it would caution both sides against using biological warfare, and it applies also to nuclear weapons.



Sinclair, Upton

Affectionately, Eve; New York, Twayne Publishers (1961,  
Author) 215p.

This is a pot-boiler novel, told in the form of letters from an aristocratic southern belle to a friend at home from New York, where she has gone to arrange for a famous sculptor to provide a statue for the Daughters of the Confederacy and for which she serves as model.

Ignorant of sex, and strictly brought up. she is made to understand the emancipated views of feminists, steals the husband of a promiscuous woman and promotes the divorce, has a temporary marriage arranged before going home for a more formal wedding in order to legitimize having lived with her new husband adulterously, sticks with him through the loss of his father's fortune and business, and the establishment of his scientific laboratory under new auspices, and lives happily ever after.

I am not sure whether Sinclair justifies his heroine in his own mind, or whether he is satiric in his portrayal of the new morality. From prudery to an acceptance of nude modelling, and from chastity to adultery, from honor to betraying a friend, seems a course less than ideal.



Sinclair, Upton

Another Pamela, or, Virtue Still Rewarded: A Story;  
New York, Viking Press, 1950 314p.

Although a better book than Affectionately, Eve which is also a novel told in the form of letters, this book is a "pot-boiler" repeating the 200 year old novel which began the English novel tradition.

A poor housemaid is befriended by a wealthy woman and by virtue of her Seventh Day Adventist religious faith is successful in resisting the amorous advances of a young and handsome youth in the family until he proposes marriage.

Sinclair, in a Postscript to the novel says that he has had opportunities to study families of the rich and in every case has found that they are aimless, unhappy, and get not even normal happiness from their money.



Sinclair, Upton

The Book of Life: Mind and Body: Love and Society;  
Fourth Edition, Revised, 1926 (1921, 1922, Author); 2 vols  
in 1; Indexes; 202 & 224p.

This is an excellent practical guide to living, and to the society and environment in which we live; and although somewhat dated now (1985) is also a detailed plan for a socialistic utopia.

Having come to the same conclusions independently of Sinclair, I must still admit that this book would have saved me much cogitation if I had read it in my youth. I am mainly in agreement with the chapters he devotes to the subject of psychical research, and I am wholly in agreement with his conclusions in favor of co-operation and against competition, and his view that the trouble with the capitalistic system is that it was designed for scarcity and breaks down because of technological production of abundance.

This comes close to being a great book, and I would be glad to recommend it to anyone whose prejudices permit him to accept common sense.



Sinclair, Upton

The Brass Check: A Study of American Journalism; Pasadena, California, The Author; 2nd Edition (circa 1920) 445p.

Unfortunately, this book does not have an index.

It is probably Sinclair's most important book, and it shows beyond question the control of the newspapers and magazines by capital through the influence of advertising and prestige. Particularly, it demonstrates the bias of the AP which is controlled by a few newspapers because of a voting power obtained under a f&f mortgage left outstanding with little reduction over many years.

The fate of The Jungle is revealed; King Coal and other books by Sinclair are mentioned; the first part of the book narrates Sinclair's personal experiences; the second provides the evidence concerning money control; and the third offers a remedy suggested: a national publication owned and controlled by the people themselves.

In view of the Thomson and Southam chains of newspapers in Canada in 1984, it can be asserted that the situation has not changed and that the propaganda is effective now as it was in Sinclair's time.



Sinclair, Upton

Co-Op: A Novel of Living Together; New York/Toronto,  
Farrar & Rinehart Incorporated (1936, Author) 426p.

This novel portrays the depression situation in California during the years 1932-1936, the start of a self-help co-operative with only the labor of its members as assets, its effort to gain the co-operative help of business and government, its destruction by the WPA taking its best men and women and setting them at work for which they had no liking or training; and the final appeal of one of its organizers to President Roosevelt to offer one half cash for the purpose of getting the productive machinery to carry its plans through until it could be entirely self-sustaining.

Since big business is able to survive only if a profit is possible, it will fight against any attempt to change the system. It does not see that the profit system is outworn, and that technology provides the abundance which dooms the profit system to failure.

As described by Sinclair, the situation is exactly the same as the present 1984 situation. And the same money interests are confident that if they are permitted to survive they will cure the problems by having business profits help revive employment, which, in turn, will enable governments to tax the workers again and eliminate the deficit.

Sinclair details closely the system I advocate for the unemployed to help themselves, and this is an important novel. It amazes me that after fifty years, his ideas have had no effect, and are never mentioned in the capitalistic press.

The story is adequate to carry the ideas along clearly and with graphic instances of the suffering and humiliation which the capitalistic system, or profit system, entails on the poor. There is a helpful list of characters preceding the story, so that this multitude can be identified.



Sinclair, Upton

The Cry for Justice: An Anthology of the Literature of Social Protest; Edited by Upton Sinclair, with an Introduction by Jack London; Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Company (1915, Publishers); Indices 891p.

This is a compilation of writings from all literatures describing the injustices of the rich versus the poor, and outlining the measures needed to correct the social system. From it I have learned of the existence of books previously unknown to me as to their nature, and the indexes are useful in guiding further reading.

An indictment of the capitalistic system, it is one-sided and pleads a special case, but the evidence against the current system is as valid today as it was when the book was published.

Conditions have improved vastly, but the fundamental inequities are still present and should be corrected.



Sinclair, Upton

Damaged Goods: The Great Play "Les Avaries" of Brieux Novelized with the approval of the author; Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Company (1913, Publishers); Illustrated 194p

A young engaged Frenchman who has kept a mistress but has not been promiscuous, attends a student party and takes to her home a prostitute who infects him with syphilis. He neglects to consult a doctor until his condition is serious; the doctor tells him that there may be 100,000 cases in Paris and that in 3 or 4 years he may be able to marry. The man says he cannot delay the marriage because the contract has been signed and he fears to inform the girl's father of his health condition.

The doctor insists upon delay; the man seeks other advice from a quack who assures him after four months that he has been cured. He marries after six months; impregnates his wife; the girl child is infected; the mother insists on having a wet-nurse continue breast-feeding despite danger of infecting the nurse; the nurse learns of the child's illness and blackmails the father into paying her 500 francs.

The wife's father confronts the doctor and threatens to kill his son-in-law. The doctor asks him if he is without sin himself, and merely fortunate in not having incurred its consequences. The father, after meeting the prostitute who infected his son-in-law and learning that she knew of her condition but was merely avenging herself on men for wrong done her, and that her lot was due to poverty after losing her child to an orphanage, brings about a reconciliation between his daughter and her husband.

Accepting the human condition, and seeking to alleviate it by spreading knowledge ends the story.



Upton Sinclair

The Fasting Cure; Frontispiece; Pasadena, California,  
The Author; (1911, Mitchell Kennerley, 1923, author) 153p.

Illhealth forced the author to read health and nutrition books, and he was familiar with the literature, including the book read by me: Carrington's Vitality, Health and Nutrition.

By fasting, Sinclair achieved good health, and he wrote articles in national magazines, like Cosmopolitan, advocating the fast cure. His detailed accounts of his fasts and their results are convincing, and the testimonials from authorities and practitioners of his advice appear sincere.

I should keep this book in mind and try this method of cure if my health fails.

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With purchase of min. 25 Litres of gasoline.



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Each

(Expires November 30/90)

Sinclair, Upton

The Flivver King; New York, Phaedra-Inc., 1969; copy-  
right Author 155p.

Although fictionized by accompanying the biography of Henry Ford with that of one of his humble assembly-line employees, this is a thorough study of Ford's career and its influence on industrialization of industry, its effect on wages, employment, and the capitalistic exploitation of the worker. It is considered one of Sinclair's most important books, and was originally advertised at 25¢ a copy (1937) and sold at 10¢ a copy.

This is probably the first hardbound edition, and is poorly proof read since there are many printing mistakes.

Ford and Sinclair had conversations, and Sinclair was unable to sway Ford away from the mistakes he made. Ford's wife listened to their conversations and wished that her husband had listened to Sinclair.

Having read a biography of Ford, I feel that this is an important critical study of his character and career.



Sinclair, Upton

Juvenile

The Gnomobile: A Gnice Gnew Gnarrative With Gnonsense,  
but Gnothing Gnaughty; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Tempo  
Books #T-112); First Printing, May, 1966 (pre-movie); Second  
Printing, with new cover based on movie 157p.  
(See: The Gnome-mobile by Mary Carey)

Elizabeth and her Uncle Rodney take a young gnome and his grandfather on a tour of forests in search of others of the gnome race, and ultimately succeed in finding many, one of whom, Queenly, marries Bobo. Glogo the grandfather dies of old age after a life of 1000 years; Bobo is a hundred at the time of the story, but the destruction of the forests has meant the death of most gnomes.

The gnomes, carried in baskets from hotel to hotel on the journey, are made the subject of newspaper publicity as Abyssinian geese, are kidnaped and Bobo is exhibited in a sideshow, likes the life, and is prepared to continue it.

Basically a plea for conservation of the forests, this story was written by Sinclair for his granddaughter, and is relatively a pot-boiler.



Sinclair, Upton

The Goslings: A Study of the American Schools; Frontispiece; Pasadena, California, Author (1924); Index 454p.

In the final chapter, Sinclair predicts the swift downfall of the capitalistic system, not because of change from activists, but because of flaws inherent in the system itself. This is exactly my conclusion sixty years later, and I am convinced that only the second world war, the creation of artificial shortages, and of recessions, have enabled it to continue as long as it has.

In this book, Sinclair shows, as Garrigues did in You're Paying for It, that graft between business and various levels of government is endemic and inevitable when the special interests must be satisfied ahead of the general interest.

That the schools throughout the U.S. are deprived of money by grafting and intrigue; that the public is robbed of tax dollars by politicians and the money interests; that the health and welfare of the nation is endangered, and that the future generations must carry the load of debt, is demonstrated fully, and documented, by Sinclair.

If the power of the money interests and political control is inevitable, does not the fault lie with human nature rather than with whatever system is used? If so, caution in making changes is imperative; we need education and ethical standards to guide us more than any economic system.



Sinclair, Upton

I, Candidate for Governor: And How I Got Licked; Pasadena, California, The Author (1934, 1935, author); Illustrated pages 215 plus ix appen.

My lack of interest in politics influenced me to neglect reading this book until now (November 24, 1990), unfortunately.

Sinclair's platform (End Poverty in California) was called the EPIC program and was basically the idea of putting the unemployed to work on idle land and have them produce themselves the necessities of existence and thus save taxpayers the expense of relief payments, since the State and the nation were in deficit position financially and the situation was getting worse because no one had money with which to pay taxes.

His own joking suggestion that if his program succeeded California would be invaded by the unemployed from other states was used against him the most effectively by moneyed interests and the capitalistic press. The book is full of cartoons which ridiculed his socialistic views and demonstrated that his words were twisted, used out of context, and falsified.

Sinclair advocated production for use, and not for profit. He pointed out that competitive production and exploitation resulted in overproduction and the consequent closing of productive plant and employment, and a reduction in the standard of living, since overproduction meant surpluses unavailable and led to bankruptcies.

His exposure of the corruption in California politics pulls no punches; it names names and details the methods used by the capitalistic interests to defeat him. Definitely if his facts were untrue, he was liable for damages for defamation of character and libel.

At the time this book was published the economic situation paralleled that which presently exists. My next-door neighbor, a retired schoolteacher, told me he was reading a book which said that many teachers of economics are resigning because they cannot explain to their students why, with the efficient means of production we have today, the entire world is going bankrupt. This book of Sinclair's would be helpful in enlightening them.

It has been obvious to me for years that world bankruptcy is inevitable because the capitalistic system cannot operate when a profit is impossible. An efficient technology produces abundance of everything; the price goes down when abundance exists, so a profit becomes impossible of achievement as long as these surpluses are maintained. And since everincreasing production is the aim worldwide, these surpluses will continue in the vain effort to achieve profits. Therefore, bankruptcy.

Sinclair was right. Production for use is essential, and easy of achievement. All we need is a change of thinking, and a slight modification of our economic system. No system is perfect, and the free enterprise system has proven worthwhile and should not be discarded, merely changed to recognise and accept the reality of an efficient technology.

On page 78 he describes a telepathic dream of his wife.



Sinclair, Upton

It Happened to Didymus; New York, Sagamore Press Inc.  
(1958, Author) 15lp.

The dust jacket blurb gives a pretty good outline of this story.

Although it is wish-fulfillment following the appearance of an angel to the narrator's gardener, and miracles are performed whenever the "Teachers" approve, the author mentions historical cases of levitation, apports, and other psychical phenomena, and relies on the apocryphal story of Thomas Didymus (The Twin) for the forerunner and background of this story.

Although Tom takes over Aimee Semple McPherson's temple in Los Angeles and promotes faith healing, Sinclair does not entirely endorse the idea of permanent cures. He introduces the element of doubt in the end of the book when Tom loses his powers and falls in love with the girl he proposed to be his experiment of a virgin birth.

This is a good example of fantasy based on psychical phenomena.



Sinclair, Upton

Jimmie Higgins: A Story; New York, Boni and Liveright  
1919; (1918, 1919, Sinclair) 282p.

The title character, a machinist orphan of unknown parentage, becomes a "Joe-boy" for the Socialist Party, is persecuted by employers and the police for his activities, his wife, whom he had met in a brothel, and his three small children are killed in a TNT explosion; he becomes a farm hand in aid of the war effort and is laid off in winter; joins the Army as a motorcycle technician, but is involved in fighting and turns the tide in favor of the French at Chateau-Thierry, is shipped off as a sergeant to fight in Siberia against the Russian proletariat, arrested for helping spread Bolshevik propaganda among the troops who are intervening without any declaration of war in the affairs of a foreign nation, tortured into insanity by officers in their vain effort to make him disclose the source of leaflets he has obtained from a Russian Jew who had worked in America, and dies a martyr.

Both Dell and Harris in their biographies of Sinclair declare this a failure as a novel, but praise it as a disclosure of the false propaganda which was used to promote the entry of the U.S. into the world war to "save democracy" but actually to promote the munitions industry and the rich who profited from government contracts. Their comments are valuable in assessing this novel in connection with its author's changes of thinking as he himself became disillusioned over the conduct of the war.

I do not think I would read this book again, but it is a valuable portrait of the general conditions of the U.S.A. for the workingman in World War 1.



Sinclair, Upton

The Journal of Arthur Stirling "The Valley of the Shadow"  
Revised and Condensed With an Introductory Sketch; London,  
William Heinemann, 1903 (1903, D. Appleton and Company xv 356p  
The Author, Pasadena, California, (1906,1923,Author) 209p

In the third edition, the preface to the second edition and a postscript to this edition are appended. These are of value and interest in declaring the author's later thoughts on the book, and its earlier reception by the critics.

Better written than some of Sinclair's material, this is the ostensible journal of a poet who has written "The Captive" a long free verse poem, and his futile search for a publisher, followed by his suicide after failure. The final section is a diatribe against the world which forces the poet to subscribe to the values of capitalistic society instead of recognising his inability to cope and the totally different kind of work from that valued by society which is involved in the creative process.

At publication of the third edition, Sinclair had realized that not only poets, but all men should be released from the wage slavery of capitalism, and had adopted the socialism credo.

A tiresome and self-pitying, but eloquent appeal, this is anything but a good novel; but it is valuable in assessing the thought of the author when it was written.

Both editions of the book should be retained for reference but Leon Harris provides an adequate assessment of the book in his biography of Sinclair.



Sinclair, Upton

The Jungle; New York, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1906  
(1905, 1906, Author); (February, 1906) 413p.

This novel established the author's reputation, and resulted in the passing of pure food laws. The author's comment was that he had aimed for the hearts of readers, and hit their stomachs.

I was more emotionally stirred by this book than by any I have read since The Girl on the Volkswagen Floor by Clark. Although the author visited upon a family of Lithuanian immigrants almost all the calamities possible in the circumstances of laboring in the packinghouses of Chicago, and was reporting also incidents slanted to support his outcry against the capitalistic system, I believe it is impossible for anyone reading this book to ignore the abuses of the system.

The first five-eighths of the novel is humanistic and enlists the reader's sympathies with its characters. When Jurgis is claimed to have been changed by his hardships to a practitioner of the exploitative practices, however, and the system is blamed entirely for this, I feel that a false note is struck. And I do not think that the lecturer on socialism who is claimed to have given Jurgis a new lease on life and hope could have done so on the basis of the speech reported. The last three-eighths of the book is almost pure propaganda, and certainly a let-down artistically from the greatness of this novel.

Nevertheless, this is a great book. The demoralizing effects of poverty and oppression are well illustrated, and the exploitative aspects of the capitalistic system are portrayed in realistic terms. The brutalizing and cruel treatment of immigrants, and of labor generally, is graphically effective.

London, Penguin Books (#49, September, 1936 reprint) 320p

There is a two-page introduction by Sinclair which is interesting.



Sinclair, Upton

King Coal: A Novel; with an Introduction by Dr. Georg Brandes; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1917; (1917, author) (1917, Misha Appelbaum), (1917, Publishers) 396p.

The story ends on page 383, the remaining pages being a "Postscript" confirming the basis of fact.

The college son of a coal magnate, whose older brother runs the business after the father has suffered a stroke, is determined to investigate the working conditions of the labor force in the mines, and starts as a mule-tender, then as a "buddy" or helper of a miner. He learns that the miners are slaves of the owners; that the company towns are run commercially as well as politically by company appointees; that the workers are kept in economic slavery by false records of the weights of coal upon which their wages are based; that non-coal work is unpaid (slag, slate, shoring materials, even dynamite) and that it is literally impossible for the miners to achieve economic independence unless given special work for toadying to the company's control.

Attracted to a miner's daughter "Red Mary", though engaged to the daughter of a banker, Hal, known as Joe Smith, resists temptation, but discovers that he loves two women. Mary realizes the hopelessness of her love and renounces Hal but joins the union movement to which Hal himself devotes his future, feeling that he cannot enjoy the fruits of slavery.

The disregard for human life and welfare in favor of profits is graphically illustrated by narrating the conditions of the mines and the oppression of the workers. The hopeless conditions are analogous to those of the packing industry as narrated in The Jungle, and the social injustice is the theme of this book as well.

There are some false notes from a literary point of view in this novel, but as propaganda for socialism it is effective and my copy of the book indicates that the original owner took it very seriously.



Sinclair, Upton

Mammonart: An Essay in Economic Interpretation; Pasadena, California, The Author, (1924, 1925); Index 390p.

This is a history of literature, deprecating the money motive and praise of money interests, and emphasising the humanistic and socialistic left-wing values.

There is much biographical information given, and this book should be considered as a corrective to orthodox literary histories. It is a guide to socialistic and left-wing authors, and although it mentions the utopias of Bellamy, Morris, and others, it does not accept the need for taking away the advances fraught with dangers, of technological change. Sinclair, like me, believes we should have all the advantages of technology, and not suppress them in favor of the scarcities which are necessary to ensure profit in our capitalistic system.

I am amazed that Sinclair has so firm a grasp of world literature, considering his handicapped youth and his need to work while he attended University.



Sinclair, Upton

Manassas: A Novel of the War; Pasadena, California,  
The Author (1904, The Macmillan Company; 1923, author 412n.  
(Revised edition title: Theirs Be the Guilt.)

Jack London called this the best Civil War novel he had read. Certainly Sinclair shows how the slavery problem was the cause of deterioration of the South, with the poor whites unable to compete with the plantation owners of slaves, and the general oppression of the slaves in contrast with the luxury and sloth of the owners.

Allan Montague is little more than an observer of events which brought about his enlisting with the North after he had been educated there and learned the truth about slavery. His banishment from home and family, his meeting great men of his time, his witnessing of important early encounters of the strife, foreshadows the "Lanny Budd" novels.

Sinclair praises Uncle Tom's Cabin, saying it is a novel portraying the mother's role in the slavery question, though the critics objected to its being literature.

Certainly, like most of Sinclair's books, it supports the "under dog".

I read from Theirs Be the Guilt an abridged version of pages 381-396 missing from my copy of this book.



(Sinclair, Upton)

McNeal-Sinclair Debate on Socialism; Girard, Kansas, Haldeman-Julius Company (1921, Appeal to Reason)	94p.
1. Debate	3
2. An Interview with Debs in Woodstock Jail 1895 (January 19, 1895) by Nellie Bly	74

Reading this in May, 1983 and seeing points brought up by Sinclair concerning unemployment and production for use rather than for profit which I have been advocating, brings to me a sense of hopelessness. Sinclair says there was no shortage of anything necessary, provided always that people had the money to purchase.

There is much food for thought in this little booklet; McNeal's questions are still apposite, but certainly the basic fact of poverty amid abundance of wealth has not been addressed today.

Debs enunciated my philosophy as clearly as I have seen it in a single paragraph at the foot of page 92 and top of page 93. He seems to have been a practical idealist, a man of principle...

The foreword to the interview indicates that Nellie Bly made a "round the world tour" to verify Jules Verne. I do not remember having seen any other mention of this in the literature of science fiction.



Sinclair, Upton

Mental Radio; Introduction by William McDougall; 283 illustrations; Pasadena, California, Author, 1930 ix, 239p.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first whole book devoted to the subject of telepathy and home experiments by a layman. The subject, Mary Craig Sinclair, Upton's wife, had been psychic from childhood without understanding her gift, with instances of prevision and telepathy.

These experiments were carried out between her and her husband, her brother-in-law, a psychic named Jan, and with the assistance of Upton's secretary (not Clement Wood).

The illustrations, aside from the plate frontispiece photo of Craig, show the drawings used, and the results of Craig's perceptions. One chapter was written by her to show her method of suggesting herself into calm receptivity, and is important for the use of autosuggestion.

Upton indicates in the text that he has been interested in psychic phenomena for about thirty years, and knew of Dr. Morton Prince's classic on multiple personality as well as knowing him personally up to his death. He mentions Lodge's Raymond as convincing, and was aware of the S.P.R. publications and several of the classic works. My guess is that he was better informed than the average layman of his day.

His conclusion: TELEPATHY HAPPENS!



Sinclair, Upton

The Metropolis; Toronto, McLeod & Allen Publishers,  
1908 (1907 The Phillips Publishing Company, 1908, Sinclair) 376p.

(See Sequel: The Moneychangers)

This is the story of a naive young attorney from the South who arrives in New York and is introduced by his young brother into high society. The brother lives on "Commissions" for catering to their wishes, including girls, and says that it is not difficult to live high.

The book portrays the vices and extravagances of the wealthy, and their unhappiness with their useless lives. It contains passages concerning Sinclair's socialistic views, but is primarily a depiction of the 400.

This is really the first volume of a long book.



Sinclair, Upton

The Millennium: A Comedy of the Year 2000; London, T.  
Werner Laurie Limited (1924, 1929, 1934) 160p.

A wealthy and powerful family have erected in Central Park, New York, a pleasure palace from which they rule the civilization of the future. The ruler is fearful of being assassinated, eats special tablets instead of regular food, and has these tasted by his associates before he dares to eat them.

His daughter has been "sold" to a Minister of State who has been unable to obtain her love: he calls her his virgin wife. The Captain of an invulnerable airship arrives to transport the family; he loves the wife of the minister, and when the population of the world outside the airship is eliminated, he claims her for his own and takes her away.

The others are left to survive as best they can, and gradually the most powerful, a former butler, by physical strength rules. He controls the tablet supply, and since canned food does not agree with the health of the survivors, they become his servants in order to eat. Gradually, the capitalistic system revives, but since it threatens to kill all of them, a cooperative commonwealth system replaces it, ending the book happily.

Attempting to treat survivors humorously, Sinclair has made this an almost farcical catastrophe novel; it should be compared with The Enemy Had It Too.



Sinclair, Upton

The Moneychangers; New York, B. W. Dodge & Company,  
1908; (1908, Author) 316p.

See Prequel: The Metropolis.

This is a sequel to the earlier book, and deals with the young lawyer's appointment to the presidency of a railroad extended to serve a steel plant and his resignation when he learns that graft and special "milking" of shareholders is planned by his principals. It also continues the story of wealthy socialites and their extravagances, and ends with the protagonist's decision to resign from their company and to devote himself to social justice causes.

Both these novels overstate their cases, but are needed to understand Sinclair's development in ideas and as a writer.



Sinclair, Upton

Money Writes!; New York, Albert & Charles Boni, 1927  
(1927, Author); Index 227p.

The thesis of this book is a plea for writers to join in supporting the working classes in their struggle against wealth and privilege. Sinclair mentions writers who have contributed literature for this cause, and reports on others who have sold out to the capitalistic press.

There is much material in this book which is of interest to me in connection with Floyd Dell, Jack London, Phillips, Herrick, and other writers; and a chapter devoted to Paul Jordan Smith, who under the name Pavel Jerdanovitch painted at least three pictures which were acclaimed works of art, though Smith produced them as satiric commentary on artistic criticism.

Like Henry Miller, Sinclair is prejudiced in favor of writers he knows and likes, but he is frank in exposing the weaknesses of others. He rejects Gertrude Atherton, but praises Edith Wharton.



Sinclair, Upton

Mountain City; New York, Albert & Charles Boni, 1930  
(2nd Ptg, February, 1930), (1930, Author) 399p.

A farm boy determines with the help of his older sister to obtain an education and become a rich man. In his second year of University he is hired for a few hours a day to be a companion for a wealthy retired tycoon whose hobby is the single tax idea of Henry George. By listening to talk of the old man with relatives and friends, he gets stock market and other tips and passes these on to one of the family members who pays him a commission; he gets acquainted with the simple granddaughter of the magnate who is ignorant of sex but who wants a baby to replace the dolls which have been taken away from her and who persuades a "nice" boy to have relations with her which result in her pregnancy. Jed seizes the opportunity to persuade her to marry him, despite her mother's wish to have an abortion performed; thus becomes a member of the wealthy clique, is commissioned by the tycoon to buy up a farm property on which oil has been found, does so and at the same time gets property of his own; unlimited oil is found and he becomes a tycoon independently, learns the need of lawyers, political influence, the manipulation of the stock market, high finance, becomes a millionaire, builds a mansion, then learns that because of his neglect of his wife she has fallen in love with the boy who had made her pregnant and wishes a divorce so that she can marry him, even though two of her three children are Jed's. Because she gives Jed all her fortune except a legacy from her grandfather, he agrees to facilitate the divorce, but ends the book by wondering what he is to do with his mansion, since he has no interest in social life and is entirely occupied with business, whose demands have engrossed all his energies and have ruled his life and destroyed his ethics.

Although much of this novel uses elements which the author expounds in Oil and other novels and books, it is a depiction of the business world which demonstrates the futility of wealth, and its degrading influence. Sinclair shows how money rules its "owners" and leads to corruption and degradation.



Sinclair, Upton

Oil!; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1926, 1927, Author)  
Eighth Printing, November, 1927 527 p.  
Washington Square Press, Inc. (#W-926), (1927, 1955,  
1966, Author) 564 p.

This is a very simply told, explicit, and thorough novel about a young man Bunny being trained by his mule-driver Dad to understand the realities of the capitalistic system in its dealings with the oil industry. Banned in Boston, the "fig-leaf" edition (Described at length in Money Writes!) is a collector's item worth hundreds of dollars.

Sinclair's description of the evils of the capitalistic system and its oppression of the working class is not so emotionally disturbing as it was in The Jungle, but it provides a better-balanced and more inclusive panorama.

This is probably one of Sinclair's greatest novels, and is well worth re-reading.



Sinclair, Upton

Our Lady: A Parable for Moderns; Hollywood, Murray &  
Gee, Inc., 1943 (1938, 1943, Author) 192p.

Jesus' mother, Marya, consults a sorceress in hopes of discovering what the future holds for her family and for Jesus, who, at thirty, has just left home. She appears at a football game to which several Catholic priests have come, and one of these is able to use Aramaic to converse with her and learns that she claims to be Jesus' mother. He consults his bishop because she claims not to have been approached by an angel, and to have borne Jesus as the result of normal co-habitation with Joseph.

Because of the threat to Church teaching, an exorcism is held, demons are banished, but Marya is returned to her sorceress.

Sinclair thought highly of this book, but although he appears to have devoted considerable research to it, I do not give it the value he did.



Sinclair, Upton

The Overman; Frontispiece; New York, Doubleday, Page &  
Company, 1907 90 p.

Twenty years after the shipwreck of his brother, the narrator receives word that survivors had not been joined by him because he had elected to stay behind on an island off the beaten path of ships. Fooled into abandoning the ship on which he was sailing in search of the island, the narrator lands on the island, finds his brother, but is amazed to find that his brother does not seek rescue and is content to stay isolated.

The brother has become a mystic, subject to trace states during which he is by telepathy or sympathy in direct contact with a human-like race of souls devoted to music whose group is like a symphony in universal accord. His mystical experiences make worthless the life of the world, and to continue them he refuses to accompany his brother when a rescue ship appears, waving him goodbye.

This is a mystical rather than a fantasy novel, but it belongs in a fantasy collection.



Sinclair, Upton

Prince Hagen: A Phantasy; Chicago, Charles H. Kerr & Company, 1910 (1903, L. C. Page & Company (Inc.) 249p.

As in The Overman, this novel discloses Sinclair's interest in music. He uses the mythology of Wagner to depict a society of gnomes, the Nibelungs, forever digging up gold and hoarding it in underground caverns, useless except for moulding into huge vases or other works of art, which are stored away in dark caverns because of lack of light due to miserliness of King Alberich, whose grandson Hagen is so troublesome that he wishes Sinclair to take him to school in America.

At the school, Hagen gives trouble by fighting other students in asserting his power. He soon learns all that the school can teach him, is dismissed for insubordination to a strict master, and declares his intention to control the world with gold after the King dies and he inherits all the golden treasure. He soon controls the stock market and society through lavish expenditure, becomes engaged to marry and join his wealth to that of an heiress without love for him but desiring social prestige.

Sinclair as author of the book gives Hagen warning from the Bible that he may not survive to enjoy his riches, and Hagen is killed when his Arabian steeds run away, dashing him to death on stone steps.

This is a padded tract against capitalism.



Sinclair, Upton

The Profits of Religion: An Essay in Economic Interpretation; Pasadena, California, The Author (1918,author)315p.

Sinclair portrays organized religion as "a Source of Income and a Shield to Privilege". He shows that it depends on the wealthy classes, that it supports the propaganda of capitalism, and that it emphasises immortality and spirituality and ignores its duty to abolish usury (or interest at all) and charity.

There is a specific section devoted to the results of publication of The Jungle in which Sinclair says that the lot of the packinghouse workers has not been improved, and that much of the impact of the book had been dissipated.

Sinclair proclaims himself a follower of Jesus, and a foe of organised religion. He decries its reactionary and "cultural lag" influence, and traces its historical crimes. On the whole, I am inclined to say that my own view agrees with Sinclair's, but I consider him a great worker for social justice, whose efforts are not appreciated as they should be by socialists today.



Sinclair, Upton

Sylvia: A Novel; Toronto, Thomas Langton (1913, The  
John C. Winston Co.) 413p.  
See sequel: Sylvia's Marriage

A Southern Belle falls in love with the son of a man whose family lives in the shadow of his disgrace for imprisonment for misuse of funds. Her family try to break up the two; she visits him in College where her cousin studies; is pursued by a man with 50 millions who has always had all he wished for; disdains him, thus piqueing his interest and a further pursuit to her home in the South; her lover is disgraced while trying to remove a friend from a bawdy house; she refuses to consider his explanation and breaks off their engagement; and under pressure from her family marries the millionaire making clear to him that she does not love him.

This long novel is merely the prelude to its sequel in which Sinclair reproduces the theme of Damaged Goods; as a result of the millionaires having contracted gonorrhea from his mistress, their baby girl becomes blind, and their marriage is ruined.

Apart from its portrayal of the social customs and reticences, this novel is unimportant by comparison with its sequel. It is told by a Manitoba farmer's divorced wife who becomes acquainted with the millionaire's mistress and Sylvia, and is instrumental in encouraging Sylvia to learn the facts of venereal disease.



Sinclair, Upton

Sylvia's Marriage: A Novel; London, T. Werner Laurie  
Ltd., n.d. 211p.  
See: Prequel Sylvia.

This is a detailed re-telling of Damaged Goods, with the characters aristocratic Southern people and a millionaire who marries Sylvia knowing that she does not love him. When their daughter is born and becomes blind from gonorhea he had contracted from his mistress, he gets his doctors to excuse his fault by various shifts, but Sylvia finally, after a year decides to separate from him, despite his efforts to persuade her family to side with him.

Coached by the divorced Manitoba farm woman who has become a publicist for Socialism, Sylvia learns the facts of sexual problems, and determines that she has made a mistake in marrying without love. She learns also that few of the men who have been her suitors are free of guilt in sexual matters, and determines to save her younger sisters from the fate which she has had herself to endure. She faces down the slanders of her home town, publicizes her problem, and acts constructively to educate her social circles in the practical eugenics which will banish ignorance and peril to women.

Although an idealized portrayal of the social problem, this is an honest novel of purpose, well told, and the more important by far of the two books.



Sinclair, Upton

Theirs Be the Guilt: A Novel of the War Between the States; New York, Twayne Publishers (1959); Preface 287p.  
(Revised edition of Manassas.)  
New York, Hillman Books (1960) (#169) 287p.

I read from the hardcover edition of this book only the part which was missing because of a signature lost from my copy of Sinclair's edition of Manassas.

This is really an abridgment, rather than a revision of the story.



Sinclair, Upton

Upton Sinclair Presents William Fox; Frontispiece Photo  
Los Angeles, California, The Author (1933, Author) 377p.

This is an important book, describing how a conspiracy of banks and securities company (Halsey, Stuart) by refusing to finance the expansion of the prosperous movie making and theater Fox Movietone organization, and then milking its assets when it took them over, ruined the firms, Fox making his escape only with his own personal assets, and losing on his ownership of stocks in his own firms.

Fox built up a remarkably prosperous business, working day and night with his wife, and Sinclair shows that the financial world preys on such businesses, ignoring failing firms. He names all the banks involved, and characterises the individuals, even Chief Justice Hughes.

This is support for Sinclair's crusade against the capitalistic system.



Sinclair, Upton

The Wet Parade; New York, Farrar & Rinehart Incorporated  
(1931, author) 431p.

Basing this novel on his own personal background of the alcoholism of his father and the experiences of his youth, Sinclair expands it to a detailed account of Prohibition and its flouting of the law in the 1920's. Helping his mother and his aunt to manage a boarding house in New York, Kip's experiences make him a tee-totaller; he marries a southern girl whose father and older brother are alcoholics, the latter a poet whose love affairs are scandalous, and whose ruin is inevitable. Kip becomes a Prohibition Agent of the Government, and is killed by a gangster, his wife becoming a lecturer on the evils of drink.

This is probably the best novel I have read concerning the prohibition era; Sinclair, as usual, deals with the social milieu as well as with his story.



Sinclair, Upton

What God Means to Me: An Attempt at a Working Religion  
New York, Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated; (1935, 1936 author)  
140p.

Sinclair's book presents a religious attitude not much different from my own: an acceptance of God, but not of the organized churches. He details personal experiences of mental healing, one being a cure of hiccups by a Christian Science practitioner. Unable at first to understand Mrs. Eddy's book, he studied her peculiar use of words according to her own interpretation of their meaning, and was enlightened. His own resident medium (presumably "Jan" of Mental Radio) convinced him of the reality of psychic phenomena, as did the gifts of his wife.

The latter part of the book details his acceptance of psychic phenomena, and his open mindedness. Like me, he feels that science must study these phenomena; he expresses no final opinion of their genuineness, apart from acceptance of telepathy.

This book belongs in my psychic phenomena collection.



Singer, Isaac Bashevis

Enemies, A Love Story; New York, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux  
(1972, author) 280p.

A ghost writer for a rabbi pretends that he is a book salesman travelling so that he may consort with his mistress yet be in New York. He lives mainly with his peasant wife who hid him in a hayloft for two years because of the Nazi threat. He believes that his first wife and children have been murdered by them.

Believing herself pregnant, his mistress demands marriage so he commits bigamy; then his first wife arrives in New York so he is involved in marriages with three women. His lying, complicated life keeps him tired, delinquent with his work, unhealthy, and in constant fear that his unlawful married state will bring legal troubles.

Like most of the Singer Brothers' novels, this ends tragically; the human condition leaves little room for optimism.

My own simple lifestyle leaves me glad that I have escaped the miseries of the poor protagonist.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 18, 1999



Singer, Isaac Bashevis

The Family Moskat; Translated from the Yiddish by A. H. Gross; New York, Alfred A. Knopf (1950, publishers) 611p.

This first novel describes in excessive detail the events in a Polish Jewish family from late 19th century to the beginning of World War Two. Among the varied characters are a spiritualist medium and a student of psychical research, but these are treated as no more eccentric than wealthy or poor, and foreshadow the expert treatment of psychic phenomena in The Seance.

The author's older brother wrote The Brothers Ashkenazi and ended it as pessimistic about world conditions. The helplessness of the individual to cope with his own personality and environment is portrayed realistically.

The dust jacket blurb describes the story well; inconclusive and with loose ends unresolved, it is still an excellent survey of the human condition.

There is no element of fantasy in this novel.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 12, 1999



Singer, Isaac Bashevis

The Golem; Illustrations by Uri Shulevitz; New York,  
Farrar - Straus - Giroux (1982, Singer); (illus. 1982, Ar-  
tist) 85p.

Although marketed as a book for children, this is a book adults can appreciate. It is a clear re-telling of the legend of the Golem, and the illustrations are of superior quality, enhancing the appeal of the story.

During an era when the Jews in Prague were persecuted, a Rabbi was inspired to create from clay a Golem whose giant strength would be used to protect them. The Golem was but a baby in intelligence, endowed with life by means of a magical formula inscribed on his forehead. Likely this legend was a forerunner of Frankenstein's monster and the zombies of Haiti and other similar homunculus creations.

Gambling debts having ruined a nobleman, he demanded a loan from a Jewish moneylender to whom he was already deeply indebted, and was refused. With the assistance of a rascally man and woman he imprisoned his own young daughter and accused the banker of having kidnapped and killed her. The Rabbi who called on the Golem for help instructed the Golem to locate the girl and bring her to the court to clear the banker.

the Rabbi's

After the banker was cleared, ~~his~~ wife learned that a hidden treasure might be found by instructing the Golem to locate it. She prevailed upon the Rabbi to order the Golem accordingly, though he protested that this was a misuse of their protector. The Golem located the treasure, but became free of control, and like a juggernaut prowled the streets of Prague, destroying property and terrorizing the people. The Rabbi prevailed upon a girl to remove the magical formula from the forehead of the Golem, thus bringing about its return to lifeless clay.

I found this simple story so interesting that I located my copy of The Golem by Gustav Meyrink and read it. See my notes concerning it.



Singer, Isaac Bashevis

The Seance and Other Stories; New York, Farrar, Straus &  
Giroux (1964, '5, '6, & '8, author) 276p.

The 16 short stories in this volume portray Jewish life in convincing detail, and several contain psychic and Fortean events more truly than most. My copy is of the second 1968 printing, so I'm not the only one to recognize the author's worth.

Formerly, in noting fantasy elements in stories, I listed the contents of books and asterisked those so designated. Now, however, I lack the time for such detail and can only praise the book as being of classic status.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 29, 1999



Singer, Isaac Bashevis

The Spinoza of Market Street; Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America; (1958, 1960, 1961, author) 214p.

Several of the eleven short stories in this collection are fantasy; in fact two of them are allegedly written by the Devil himself.

Overall, the standard is not as high as in the subsequent collection The Seance, but all are interesting and worthwhile. I am impressed by his ability to portray the supernormal as an unusual but factual part of human life.

Various translators put into English these stories written originally in Yiddish; well done.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 15, 1999



Singer, I. J.

The Brothers Ashkenazi; Translated from the Yiddish by Maurice Samuel; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1936; (1936, Publishers) 643p.

The author uses the family stories of twin brothers to portray conditions in Lodz, Poland before and immediately following the first World War. The older brother, wizened but brilliant mentally becomes an important industrialist; the younger a lucky, handsome and popular socialite who seems effortlessly to triumph.

The older's schemes succeed temporarily, but the war destroys him and although his brother frees him from prison at the cost of his own life, inflation ruins his second attempt at money and power and he dies hopelessly.

The persecution of the poor by the rich, the venality of the officials, the cruelty of the soldiers in power, and the failure of traditional Jewish traditions give this novel a panoramic view of an insane world.

As a reading experience, this long novel is impressive and is as interesting in portraying a different way of life to mine as any science fiction story of aliens. The author's description of the lives of the poor workers and the effects of technological change empowering the rich shows his sympathy with the underdog.

This novel is worth reading often, but is so depressing in its portrayal of human nature and economic hardship that I shall remember it with a shudder.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 29, 1999



Sinnett, A. P.

Karma: A Novel; Chicago and New York, Rand, McNally & Company, (no date) 285p.

The author was very active in the early history of the Theosophical Society and wrote several books, but this is his only novel to the best of my knowledge.

It is much superior to most occult novels and discloses much of the philosophy promoted by Madame Blavatsky, discounting the phenomena in favor of the higher spiritual values, but attributing to adepts the ability to project self-images and to act physically at a distance.

Two love stories are involved when a group of people become guests of a Baron with the intention to learn occultism from him. One results tragically, but with occult benefit, the other happily but with loss of occult interest. A medium in friendly touch with both worlds and with clairvoyance confirms the spiritualistic view and demonstrates out-of-the-body travel.

As an overview of occultism, this could be compared with Hamlin Garland's The Tyranny (tyranny?) of the Dark as an exposition of parapsychology, though the story is inferior.

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Sinnett, A. P.

The Occult World; with the Author's Corrections and a New Preface; Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Company (1885, Publishers) xvi plus 228p.

In the preface, Sinnett mentions that the book has been granted a greater importance than originally anticipated because of the developments relating to the Mahatma letters and the controversy over the Kiddle plagiarism accusation. The appendix covers this in greater detail than usual in the biographies of Mme Blavatsky, so the book should be retained for reference.

The "cup and saucer" incident at the picnic is different from the version given by Symonds, he having given suppositions as if they were fact. An essay could be written to clarify the two versions, but certainly trickery is more likely than the supernormal explanation.

As an important sidelight on Mme Blavatsky, this book is of permanent importance; and some idea of the theosophical point of view is expressed.



Sinnett, A. P.

The Rationale of Mesmerism; Boston and New York, Houghton,  
Mifflin and Company, 1892; Index 232p.

Many years ago I read several books on hypnotism and mesmerism and came to the same conclusion as this author that the two methods of inducing sleep or trance differed. Sinnett sneers at the pretensions of Braid and others to have originated ideas, and he denounces the medical profession for its failure to make use of proven procedures to alleviate the suffering of mankind.

His views are shared by many doctors who have practised hypnosis and mesmerism, and even now I note that most hypnotherapists are psychologists.

Sinnett was handicapped by not having space in this little volume to explain his view of the necessity of an occult viewpoint for understanding the action of the procedures on the mind rather than the physical body. Materialism in his day was more prevalent than it is currently, but our doctors still rely on pills more than the psychological bases of many illnesses.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
April 6, 2000



Silvant, Aita

The Strange Story of Shirziman; Illustrated; Chicago, The Progressive Thinker Publishing Co., 1903 (1905, author) 224p.

Part I supplies the autobiography told in the first person but with occasional scenes unconsciously of a Persian King of 2000 years ago, based on the history of the Jewish Josephus. A melodramatic plot is enhanced by occult training by an adept who has extended his life span by vampiric drawing from young men of their vital force.

From pages 157 to 272 those events are viewed from the astral or spiritualistic spheres after death, inculcating occult teachings of the consequences of earthly events on the eternal soul. Notes completing the volume warn against amateur magnetists or others practising mediumship or control of others.

Both the story and the occult teachings are evidence that the author possessed a mature and educated understanding of occult philosophy and human nature. This is probably among the top ten occult novels I have read, and is worth both reading and study.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
November 11, 1909



Sinyard, Neil

Classic Movie Comedians; Illustrated; London, Bison Books  
Ltd (1992, Publishers) 176p.

This is an excellent reference summary of the careers of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Harry Langdon, Laurel and Hardy, W. C. Fields, and The Marx Brothers, with an index and mention of other comedians incidental to the main characters.

Because of Ruth's liking for Chaplin, I shall give her this book. I enjoyed reading it.

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Siodmak, Curt

Donovan's Brain; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1943, (1942,  
Siodmak) 234p.

This is a much better written and plotted novel than the  
author's 1933 F. F. I Does Not Reply.

A multimillionaire facing imminent death turns his business interests over to his son and determines to right wrongs he has done during his career by seeking out people and making restitution to the extent possible. He is fatally injured in a plane crash, and the doctor who attempts to rescue him is able to keep his brain alive by removing it from his body and placing it in a solution where it is nourished, and grows.

At first, the doctor, from whose viewpoint the bulk of the story is written and in the form of a diary, has difficulty in communicating with Donovan's brain, but by Morse code at first, and later by telepathy, does so. Gradually, however, the brain assumes dominance, and as Donovan is insane, he does not hesitate to gain his ends by usurping Dr. Cory's body and mind. Cory is scientifically interested and goes along until it is too late for him to control, and the brain tries murder and subversion to gain its ends.

A genius doctor who has lost himself to drink finally baffles the brain by repeating a line used to cure a lisp; this keeps his thoughts unreadable by the brain, enabling the drunk to attack and kill the brain. Cory and his wife, whose relations had deteriorated because of Cory's devotion to his work, are reconciled; Donovan's son and daughter whose lives had been ruined by their father's domination, are shown that they can become successes on their own, and all ends happily.

The best part of this book is the gradual possession of Cory's body by the brain's personality, and this book is a good example of the possibility of possession by scientific means.



Siodmak, Kurt (Translated by H. A. Farrell, M.B.E.)

F. P. 1 Fails to Reply; London, Collins, 1938 252p.

The first mid-Atlantic floating platform for airplanes must be in position by a certain date to qualify for purchase by government. Rival interests seek to prevent this by sabotage and harassment. A famous airmen and explorer agrees to help the daughter of the owner of the platform to find it after radio communication is cut off, on condition that she have an affair with him, but she loves the designer of the platform and is seeking him.

Business and personal intrigue give the story dramatic qualities, but aside from a few technical details of the platform itself, there is little to qualify this story as science-fiction. Like Shiel's The Lord of the Sea, however, it deals with a technological development not then available, and so qualifies as "future" fiction.

About average as a novel, this is not important to me, so I will likely sell it to Bob Welling.



Sizemore, Chris Costner, and Pittillo, Elen Sain

I'm Eve; Illustrated; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. (1977, Authors) 463p.

Excepting for a ten-year period when she was teaching and obtaining her doctorate, Elen was closely in touch with Chris (Eve), and the writing of this book over a period of a year was delayed by clearing rights to publication.

Far from being "cured" as intimated in The Final Face of Eve, Chris continued to exhibit new personalities to a total of more than twenty. In childhood she "saw" a red-haired girl doing things or being present when things were done for which she was later blamed; she had ESP experiences which were not mentioned in the earlier books; and her marriage to Don Sizemore nearly broke down on many occasions because of her inability to deal with reality. At times her young daughter Taffy had to take care of Chris, as well as her parents and relatives.

The greater part of this book retells the facts of the previous books as Chris remembered them, goes into great detail about her early life and family life, and contradicts both the earlier books.

Overall, my impression is that the basic facts make this one of the most important cases of multiple personality, but that few of the details can be implicitly relied upon as having been fully presented. Chris's lapses of memory; the lying and dishonest nature of some of the personalities such as Eve Black; the inaccurate appraisal of some personalities by the psychiatrists because of their limited contact with them in office therapy and lack of observation in practical life situations; and the necessity to protect the identity of some of the people involved in the case; the admission that some of the incidents were detailed as if they had occurred, whereas they were told as factual, but were considered only as "likely"; and the secrecy imposed on "Eve" by Thigpen to protect her identity, all militate against accepting any of the three books as literal truth.

Much of the literature concerning this case appeared in periodicals, and has probably been collected by institutions for study. Articles will continue to appear.

See: Thigpen & Cleckley: The Three Faces of Eve  
Lancaster & Poling: The Final Face of Eve



Sjoman, Vilgot

I Am Curious (yellow): The complete scenario of the film, with over 250 illustrations; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1968) 254p.

Aside from the illustrations from the film, the most important part of this book is the summary of the trial which took place during four days commencing May 20, 1968 in New York as to whether the film was suitable for American viewing. Consequently, this book should be retained for reference in connection with censorship.

My own opinion, based on the book as a whole, is that the treatment is shallow and inconsequential. This may be due to the growing difficulty of attaching any great significance to temporary portrayals of the shifting values in our modern life. I wonder if the companion movie (blue) would assist in interpreting this one.

I doubt if seeing the movie ~~witself~~ would assist me to understand better what the producer was attempting to convey.



Skelton, Robin, and Kozocari, Jean

A Gathering of Ghosts: Hauntings and Exorcisms from the Personal Casebook of Robin Skelton and Jean Kozocari; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Western Producer Prairie Books; (1989, authors; Appendix 169p.

The authors treat psychic phenomena more from an occult and religious point of view than a scientific one. Their investigations indicate that the phenomena are more common than is believed by most people, especially in Canada. Cases in Victoria, B.C. are detailed.

These two ghost-hunters seem to attribute the phenomena to the surviving influence of tragic happenings. My impression is that they function pretty much as Hans Holzer does. Many of the cases fail to carry conviction; they lacked resolution.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
June 17, 2001



The Obeah Tree: A Tale of the West Indies for Boys;  
Illustrated by A. S. Forrest; London, Edinburgh, New York,  
Toronto & Paris, Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., n.d. 304p.

Although possibly intended for a juvenile readership, this is enjoyable for adults as an historical adventure story of Lauzun, capital city of Ste. Cecile. It portrays the plantation life under French rule, with British invaders and the constant menace of uprisings by the black slaves and intrigue among the various interested parties.

The book qualifies as fantasy because quite apart from the power of Obeah whose phenomena are accepted, one of the characters has the power of prevision and fortune-telling in a veridical sense.

A haunted valley, overlooked by the Obeah tree, buried pirate treasure within the valley, an American adventurer in search of the treasure, a young French lieutenant and the young widowed daughter of a plantation owner, and an evil obeah man are the elements, but constant adventure sets the pace of the story.



Sladek, John

The New Apocrypha: A Guide to Strange Science and Occult Beliefs; New York, Stein and Day (1974); (1973, Sladek) Bibliography, Index 375p.

On pp.14-15, the author says: "I try to describe them with a minimum of 'debunking', although I must confess in advance my own bias against many occult and pseudo-scientific claims."

This is fair warning that he approaches the study of these beliefs as a skeptic. His bias is not quite so evident as Joseph McCabe's, and his book is a very useful reference, but in so all-embracing a survey, the choice of "facts" is bound to be selective and to support his own mental attitude.

He refers to Sir William Crookes as a physicist, but my recollection is that Crookes was a chemist. He implies that Crookes was enamoured of Katie Cook (Mrs. Corner) and that her husband resented the apparent relationship; that Crookes was 42 years old at the time of the experiments.

There are many suggestions helpful to a study of psychical research, and this book is well worth keeping. Sladek is an intelligent and critical commentator, but he overlooks, in his selection of incidents which disprove the validity of some research, the many years of experiments which could hardly have been made without some error. Like most critics, he is prone to consider that the discovery of a single error invalidates experiments and experimenters alike. Although he may be right in requiring a high standard of performance, no human being can achieve perfection.

Although the author is well-read and intelligent, he fails to convince me that he has given adequate consideration to the many years of research and the positive results of real students of many of the subjects treated.





